

States of America as a part of the Badlands Air Force Gunnery Range, sometimes referred to and known as the Pine Ridge Aerial Gunnery Range. The regulations also govern the acquisition by former Indian owners of life estates in national monument lands formerly owned by them and the acquisition of lieu lands when lands formerly owned by them are not available or are not desired by them for reacquisition. The legislative authority for reacquisition of lands or interests therein by former owners is the Act of August 8, 1968 (Pub. L. 90-468; 82 Stat. 663).

§ 178.2 Definitions.

(a) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior or his duly authorized representative.

(b) "Superintendent" means the officer in charge of the Pine Ridge Indian Agency, Pine Ridge, S. Dak.

(c) "Act" means the Act of August 8, 1968 (Pub. L. 90-468; 82 Stat. 663).

(d) "Gunnery Range" means the area on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota that was acquired by the United States for use of the Air Force commonly known as the Pine Ridge Aerial Gunnery Range or the Badlands Air Force Gunnery Range.

(e) "Monument" means the Badlands National Monument as enlarged by section 1 of the Act of August 8, 1968 (Pub. L. 90-468).

(f) "Tribe" means the Oglala Sioux Tribe of Indians of South Dakota.

§ 178.3 Eligibility to purchase.

(a) Any former owner of a tract of land or interest in a tract of land, whether title was held in trust or in fee, which was acquired by the United States as a part of the Gunnery Range may purchase such tract pursuant to the provisions of the Act and the regulations set forth in this part: *Provided*, Said tract has been declared excess to the needs of the Department of the Air Force, has been transferred to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, and is not within the boundaries of the Monument or within that portion of the Gunnery Range retained for use of the Department of the Air Force.

(b) If a former owner is deceased and is survived by a spouse, the spouse may

purchase under the same terms and conditions as the former owner except that if the former owner was an Indian whose land was held in trust and his surviving spouse is a non-Indian, the title to said tract shall be conveyed to the non-Indian spouse in a fee simple status.

(c) If the former owner is deceased and the spouse is also deceased, the children of the former owner may repurchase the tract.

(d) If the former owner is not survived by a spouse or children there exist no repurchase rights involving the tract.

(e) Not more than five former owners may join in purchasing a tract of land. "Former owner" means each person from whom the United States acquired an interest in a tract of land, or if such person is deceased, the surviving spouse, or if such spouse is deceased, his children. If more than five former owners apply to acquire a tract, the Superintendent shall notify them in writing that it will be necessary for them to agree among themselves as to the five or less of them who shall acquire the tract. If agreement among the owners is obtained, those individuals who are to acquire the tract shall then file an application to purchase it. The matter of reaching agreement among the owners is the sole responsibility of said owners and not the responsibility of the Department of the Interior and/or the Bureau of Indian Affairs to participate in the negotiations between the owners. If the former owners fail to reach such an agreement, all applications for the tract shall be rejected.

§ 178.4 Notice to former owners.

After publication of these regulations, there shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER notice that certain described lands and interests in lands have been transferred to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary and are available for repurchase by the former owners pursuant to section 3(b) of the Act. Upon transfer of administrative jurisdiction over lands that may thereafter be declared excess to the needs of the Department of the Air Force and acceptance by the Secretary,